

What is claimed is:

Sub A3 1. An apparatus for receiving and separating a plurality of hangers having respective necks comprising a body of a substantially rigid material extending along a longitudinal axis, the body having opposite first and second surfaces and being provided with a plurality of longitudinally spaced-apart openings extending between the opposite first and second surfaces adapted for respectively receiving the necks of the plurality of hangers whereby the spacing of the hangers by the body inhibits wrinkling of garments or other objects carried by the hangers, the body being provided with first and second longitudinally-extending portions inclined at an angle relative to each other whereby the inclination of the first and second portions relative to each other provides rigidity to the body.

2. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the first and second portions are bendable relative to each other.

3. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the body is made from cardboard.

4. The apparatus of Claim 3 wherein the body has a crease in the cardboard between the first and second portions for facilitating bending of the first and second portions relative to each other.

5. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the body is made from plastic.

6. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the first and second portions meet at an edge and each extend downwardly from the edge towards the hangers.

7. The apparatus of Claim 6 wherein the plurality of openings extend between the first and second surfaces at the edge.

Sub A4 8. The apparatus of Claim 7 wherein the longitudinal axis is a longitudinal centerline and wherein the edge extends along the longitudinal centerline and the openings are spaced along the longitudinal centerline.

9. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein each of the openings is a hole.

10. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein each of the openings is a slit.

Sub A5 11. An apparatus for receiving and separating a plurality of hangers having respective necks comprising a body of a substantially rigid material, the body having a substantially planar central portion and opposite first and second side portions inclined at respective angles relative to the central portion, the central portion having opposite first and second surfaces and a longitudinal axis, the central portion being provided with a plurality of longitudinally spaced-apart openings extending between the opposite first and second

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surfaces adapted for respectively receiving the necks of the plurality of hangers whereby the first and second side portions provide rigidity to the body and the spacing of the hangers by the central portion inhibits wrinkling of garments or other objects carried by the hangers.

12. The apparatus of Claim 11 wherein the body is made from cardboard.

5 13. The apparatus of Claim 11 wherein the body has a crease between the central portion and each of the first and second side portions for facilitating bending of the side portions relative to the central portion.

10 14. The apparatus of Claim 11 wherein the central portion has opposite first and second side edges, the first and second side portions being joined to the central portion at respective first and second side edges.

15. The apparatus of Claim 14 wherein the opposite first and second side edges extend parallel to the longitudinal axis.

16. The apparatus of Claim 11 wherein the first and second side portions are each inclined at an angle of 180° or less relative to the first surface of the central portion.

17. The apparatus of Claim 16 wherein the first and second side portions are each inclined at an angle of approximately 90° relative to the first surface of the central portion.

18. The apparatus of Claim 16 wherein the first and second side portions are each inclined at an obtuse angle relative to the first surface of the central portion.

19. An apparatus for receiving and separating a plurality of hangers having respective necks comprising a body of a substantially rigid material extending along a longitudinal axis, the body having opposite first and second surfaces and first and second edges adjoining the first and second surfaces, the body being provided with a plurality of longitudinally spaced-apart, parallel slits extending between the opposite first and second surfaces adapted for respectively receiving the necks of the plurality of hangers, each of the slits extending to an opening in the first edge whereby the spacing of the hangers by the body inhibits wrinkling of garments or other objects carried by the hangers.

20. The apparatus of Claim 19 wherein the body is provided with first and second longitudinally-extending portions inclined at an angle relative to each other whereby the inclination of the first and second portions relative to each other provides rigidity to the body.

21. The apparatus of Claim 20 wherein the body has a crease and wherein the first and second portions are adjoined to each other at the crease, the crease extending substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis between the slits and the second edge.

22. The apparatus of Claim 19 for use with a plurality of hangers having respective necks with cross-sectional areas, wherein each of the slits has a central portion having a cross-sectional area at least as large as the cross-sectional area of the respective hanger necks for receiving the hanger necks and a narrowed portion between the central portion and the first edge for inhibiting undesired movement of the hanger necks from the central portion during use.

23. The apparatus of Claim 19 wherein the body is segmented by a plurality of longitudinally spaced-apart weakened areas for facilitating shortening of the body to a desired length.

24. The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein each of the weakened areas is a perforated line extending transversely of the longitudinal axis between a pair of slits.

25. A transport assembly comprising a plurality of hangers having respective necks, a body of a substantially rigid material extending along a longitudinal axis, the body having opposite first and second surfaces and being provided with a plurality of longitudinally spaced-apart openings extending between the opposite first and second surfaces for respectively receiving the necks of the plurality of hangers whereby the spacing of the hangers by the body inhibits wrinkling of garments or other objects carried by the hangers

26. The assembly of Claim 25 wherein the body is provided with first and second longitudinally-extending portions inclined at an angle relative to each other for providing rigidity to the body.

27. The assembly of Claim 26 wherein the first and second portions meet at an edge and each extend downwardly from the edge towards the hangers.

28. The assembly of Claim 25 wherein the body is made from cardboard.

29. The assembly of Claim 25 further comprising a tie extending through the necks above the body and having first and second ends that can be tied together whereby the tie precludes the hangers from undesirably separating from the body.

30. The assembly of Claim 29 wherein the tie includes a flexible wire.

31. The assembly of Claim 25 wherein each of the openings is a hole.

32. The assembly of Claim 25 wherein each of the openings is a slit.